

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 47-50 are pending in the application. Claims 25-46 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that claims 1-24 and 47-50 recite subject matter that is not disclosed by the cited references.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 7-12, 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,704,060 to Levandowski (“Levandowski”) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0194596 by Srivastava (“Srivastava”).

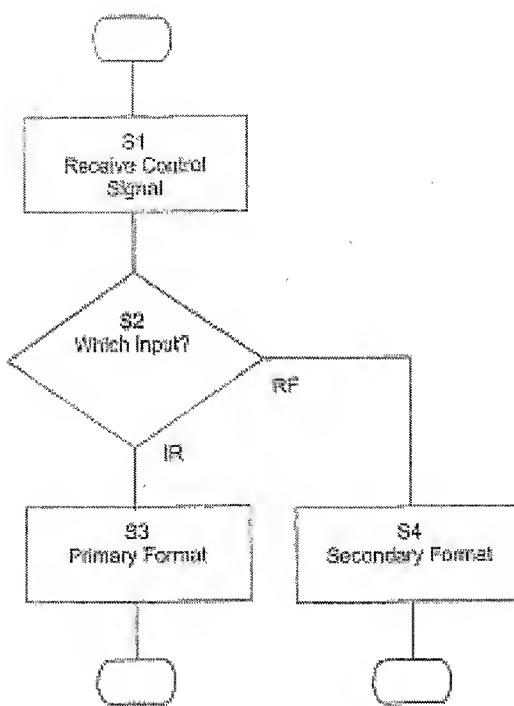
Claim 1 is directed to a media device that has first and second media outputs and first and second control inputs. The media device selects or modifies media signals for output in response to the control signals received on either the first or second control inputs. Specifically, the device applies a “common setting to the media signals output on the first and second media outputs.” The common setting is adopted “according to whether control signals are received respectively on said first or said second inputs.” Thus, the common output setting is selected based on which of the two inputs receives the control signal.

For example, receipt of a control signal at the first input would result in a first predetermined common output setting, while receipt of a control signal on the second input may result in a different predetermined common output setting. Describing a first embodiment, the specification notes:

control signals received directly from the remote 28 by the receiver 3 are input at the IR receiver 29, while control signals received via an extender are input at the secondary RF interface 22b. In this embodiment, the receiver sets the picture format mode automatically according to the input at which the control signals are received. If the control signals are input at the IR receiver 29, this indicates that the user is at the primary location 42a and wants to watch the primary TV 2a. Therefore, a picture format mode suitable for the primary TV 2a is selected. If control signals are input at the secondary RF interface 22b, this indicates that the user is at the secondary location 42b and wants to watch the secondary TV 2b. Therefore, a picture format mode suitable for the secondary TV 2b is selected.

Paragraph [0049] (emphasis added); *see also* Figure 3. This concept may be further understood by reference to the flow chart of Figure 6, specifically, “S2,” which asks “Which input?”:

Fig. 6



See also paragraph [0050] (“At step S1, the program receives a decoded control signal. At step S2, the program identifies on which input the control signal was received.” (emphasis added)). There would be no need to ask “which input” if there were only one input. Any interpretation of claim 1’s scope that would encompass a device having a single input is inconsistent with both the specification and plain language of claim 1.

Giving claim 1 its broadest reasonable interpretation in view of the specification, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or would have suggested “wherein the device is arranged to adopt a predetermined first or second setting as said common setting according to whether control signals are received respectively on said first or said second inputs” as required by claim 1.

For instance, Levandowski generally describes an arrangement by which television signals are provided at a local location and at a remote location. *See* Levandowski, col. 1, l. 59 – col. 2, l. 23. As apparently acknowledged in the Office Action, Levandowski fails to disclose a “device being further arranged to apply a common setting to the media signals output on the first and second media outputs; wherein the device is arranged to adopt a predetermined first or second common setting as said setting according to whether control signals are received

respectively on said first or said second inputs.” *See*, Office Action, pp. 2-3, 5. Srivastava does not remedy this deficiency.

Rather, Srivastava discloses an audio video platform (AVP) that acts as a master controller. *See, e.g.*, paragraph [0006]. The AVP is a master set-top box (STB) that interconnects various audio-visual devices and allows for unified user control and video display from the devices. Paragraph [0006]. Essentially, Srivastava discloses a system wherein many audio-visual devices may be controlled by a single controller. Srivastava does not disclose multiple control inputs or adopting a common setting according to whether control signals are received respectively on said first or said second inputs, as required by claim 1. Because Srivastava is premised on a single, centralized control input, it simply cannot be relied upon to teach or suggest “according to whether control signals are received respectively on said first or said second inputs.” There is no disclosure of first or second settings adopted as a common setting, dependant upon which input is used.

Paragraphs [0037], [0040], and [0046] of Srivastava, relied upon in the Office Action, fail to disclose a “device being further arranged to apply a common setting to the media signals output on the first and second media outputs; wherein the device is arranged to adopt a predetermined first or second common setting as said setting according to whether control signals are received respectively on said first or said second inputs.” These portions of Srivastava merely describe how a signal may be passed, via a switch 136, to either a standard or high-definition television monitor using an MPEG codec 134. Although the output may be formatted to match a selected display device, there is no disclosure of adopting a predetermined common setting “according to whether control signals are received respectively on said first or said second inputs.” This feature is completely absent from, and not suggested by, Levandowski or Srivastava.

The Examiner states that “the claim limitation did not claim first and second control input in the last claim limitation. Levandowski was used to teach first and second control inputs. Last claim limitation recites first or second control input indicating only one control input is required which Srivastava discloses.” Office Action, p. 5. Applicants respectfully disagree. The last claim limitation is not merely claiming “first or second inputs;” rather, the last claim limitation requires that the “media device having first and second media outputs and respective associated first and second control inputs” be arranged to adopt a common setting “according to whether

control signals are received on said first or said second inputs.” In order for a common setting to be applied according to where a control signal is received, there necessarily must be multiple control inputs. Any other interpretation would be inconsistent with the specification and vitiate the claim term “according to.” The last limitation of claim 1 does not recite alternative limitations, but places a conditional upon how the claimed “first and second control inputs” are used. Failing to disclose first and second control inputs, Srivastava necessarily fails to disclose this limitation.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Levandowski in view of Srivastava. Claims 2-4 and 7-12 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 16 states:

A method of setting a media output format for a media device having at least first and second media outputs and respective associated first and second control inputs, the media device being arranged to select or modify media signals for output on the first and/or second media outputs in response to control signals received on either of the first and second control inputs; the device being further arranged to apply a common setting to the media signals output on the first and second media outputs; the method comprising detecting whether the control signals are received on said first or said second inputs, and adopting respectively a predetermined first or second setting as said common setting in response to said detecting step.

(emphasis added). The method of claim 16 explicitly requires “detecting whether the control signals are received on said first or said second inputs” and adopting a common setting “in response to said detecting step.” Again, claim 16 does not recite alternative limitations, and construing claim 16 in such a manner is not reasonable and not consistent with the specification.

Levandowski does not teach and would not have suggested adopting a common setting in response to the claimed detecting step, and Srivastava does not remedy this deficiency. Again, since Srivastava does not disclose multiple control inputs, it cannot be relied upon as disclosing adopting a common setting in response to the claimed detection step. This feature is completely absent in the cited references.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable over Levandowski in view of Srivastava. Claims 17, 18, and 21-24 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 16 and are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 16.

Claims 5, 6, 13-15, 19, 20 and 47-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levandowski in view of Srivastava and U.S. Patent No. 6,104,865 to Hamaguchi et al. (“Hamaguchi”).

Claim 13 states:

A television broadcast receiver arranged to output on primary and secondary outputs a video signal having a picture format common to said primary and secondary video outputs, and having an infrared receiver for receiving control signals from a remote control, and an auxiliary control input for receiving control signals from the remote control via a remote control extender, the receiver being arranged to detect whether a control signal is received by the infrared receiver or at the auxiliary control input, and to apply selectively a first or a second said picture format to said video signal, dependent on said detection.

(emphasis added). For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 16, the combination of Levandowski and Srivastava fail to disclose every limitation of claim 13. Hamaguchi fails to remedy their deficiencies.

Hamaguchi is relied upon for its discussion of “a picture format and applying selectively a first or a second said picture format to said video signal.” Office Action, p. 12. However, Hamaguchi does not disclose a “receiver being arranged to detect whether a control signal is received by the infrared receiver or at the auxiliary control input, and to apply selectively a first or a second said picture format to said video signal, dependent on said detection.” The relied-upon portions of Hamaguchi, col. 21, lines 31-42 and Figure 4, merely discuss upscaling to pseudo HD. This portion of Hamaguchi does not teach and would not have suggested applying a picture format to a video signal dependent on whether a control signal is received by an infrared receiver or at an auxiliary control input, as required by claim 13. Accordingly, Hamaguchi does not remedy the deficient teachings of Levandowski and Srivastava.

Moreover, the Examiner’s reliance on Figure 1 and paragraph [0023] of Srivastava is misplaced. *See* Office Action, p. 11 (“Srivastava discloses the receiver being arranged to detect whether a control signal is received by the infrared receiver or at the auxiliary control input, and to apply selectively a first or a second video signal, dependent on said detection (see fig. 1 and paragraph 0023)”). For instance, paragraph [0023] merely discusses the way in which the AVP registers remote control commands. For the Examiner’s convenience, paragraph [0023] is reproduced below:

[0023] FIG. 5 illustrates an example of some processes that AVP 130 may use to register a the IR remote control commands for a component. A user selects the AVP power-on switch on AVP remote control unit 129 and at step 510 operational power is applied to AVP 130 and TV monitor 174. The OSD function of the AVP 130 displays a main menu on TV monitor 174 containing areas labeled with selectable functions or AV device names as shown in FIG. 6. In this example, each area of the main menu is identified with the name of a function or AV device type and an assigned component number in the lower right corner of the area. The displayed locations of the labeled areas may match the configuration of keys on the remote control device 129. For example the area bearing component number 9 corresponds with the name "registration". Thus, when the menu shown in FIG. 6 is displayed and the viewer presses the key on the remote control unit 129 labeled with the number 9, the registration function is selected.

As is clear from the above, this disclosure does not teach and would not have suggested a "receiver being arranged to detect whether a control signal is received by the infrared receiver or at the auxiliary control input, and to apply selectively a first or a second said picture format to said video signal, dependent on said detection." Rather, it merely provides an example of how to register remote control commands. This passage actually further illustrates how Srivastava differs from the claimed invention and utilizes a single, central control input.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is allowable over Levandowski in view of Srivastava and Hamaguchi. Claims 14 and 15 depend directly from claim 13 and are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 13.

Similar to claim 13, claim 47 states:

A method of applying a picture format to a video signal of a television broadcast receiver, the television broadcast receiver being arranged to output on primary and secondary outputs a video signal having a picture format common to said primary and secondary video outputs, and having an infrared receiver for receiving control signals from a remote control, and an auxiliary control input for receiving control signals from the remote control via a remote control extender, the method comprising:

detecting whether a control signal is received by the infrared receiver or at the auxiliary control input; and
applying selectively a first or a second said picture format to said video signal, dependent on said detection.

(emphasis added). For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1, 13, and 16, the combination of Levandowski, Srivastava, and Hamaguchi fails to teach and would not have suggested each and every limitation of claim 47.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 47 is allowable over Levandowski in view of Srivastava and Hamaguchi. Claims 48-50 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 47 and are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 47.

Claims 5 and 6 depend indirectly from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 19 and 20 depend indirectly from claim 16 and are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 16.

CONCLUSION

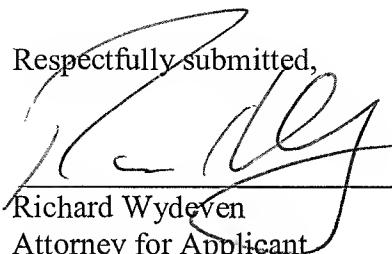
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed. Applicants therefore respectfully request that Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections, and that they be withdrawn. Applicants submit that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Please charge the required fee in connection with this submission, including an extension of time fee in the event this submission is untimely, or any additional fees or credits to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Date: 5/10/11

Respectfully submitted,


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